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**PATENT** 

#### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTOR(S)

: Michael Weiss, et al.

TITLE

: CACHING MECHANISM TO OPTIMIZE A BIDDING PROCESS USED TO SELECT RESOURCES

AND SERVICES

APPLICATION NO.

: 09/768,129

FILED

: January 23, 2001

CONFIRMATION NO.

: 3324

**EXAMINER** 

: E.G. Milef

ART UNIT

3628

LAST OFFICE ACTION

: December 14, 2005

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

: PERY 2 00002

Cleveland, OH 44114

January 5, 2006

#### REQUEST FOR PRE-APPEAL BRIEF CONFERENCE

MAIL STOP AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Commissioner:

Applicants respectfully request a pre-appeal brief conference insofar as the Examiner's rejections contain both clear factual errors and clear legal errors, as explained more fully below.

#### 1. Clear Factual Errors

First, the Examiner has refuted applicants' argument that Baindur (US 6,073,176) fails to teach or suggest "Resource Adapters for providing a uniform interface to access APIs of said resources" as recited in claim 1. In support of his refutation, the Examiner notes that Baindur discloses "interfaces with various servers and clients" implemented "using a different programming methodology" that nonetheless perform "that which is described in claim 1." Yet, the Examiner has not in any way identified where in Baindur the "interfaces with various servers and clients" provide "a uniform interface to access APIs of said resources," as recited in claim 1.

Second, the Resource Adapters of applicants' claim 1 include a Caching Adapter "for maintaining cached bids for predetermined contexts." The Examiner does not contest applicants' submission that Baindur does not teach or suggest this recited feature. Indeed, the words "cache" or "cached" do not appear anywhere in the Baindur citation. However, the Examiner dismisses this shortcoming by stating simply that all computer systems use cache systems "including the "dynamic" bidding system taught by Baindur." While caching systems are well known in the computer arts, applicants respectfully submit that the use of a Caching Adapter "for maintaining cached bids for predetermined contexts" is completely unknown in the art and, as indicated above, is completely absent from Baindur.

#### 2. Clear Legal Error

The Examiner has traversed applicants' argument that his conclusion of

obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning by noting that "so long as [the hindsight reconstruction] takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper," citing *In Re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971). From the arguments presented under "Clear Factual Errors," it is clear that the use of a Caching Adapter within a multi-agent caching system "for maintaining cached bids for predetermined contexts" falls squarely into the realm of "knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure." Therefore, the Examiner's legal reasoning is manifestly wrong.

	Respectfully submitted,
	FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN, MINNICH & McKEE, LLP
1/5/06	John Jost
Date	John S. Zanghi, Reg. No. 48,843 1100 Superior Avenue, Seventh Floor Cleveland, OH 44114-2579 216-861-5582

I certify that this Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance is being  deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, addressed to: MAIL STOP AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.  transmitted via facsimile under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 on the date indicated below.  deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: MAIL STOP AF, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
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